



H.R. 664 – To amend the Water Desalination Act of 1996 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist in research and development, environmental and feasibility studies, and preliminary engineering for the Municipal Water District of Orange County, California, Dana Point Desalination Project located at Dana Point, California

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 664 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Campbell (R-CA) on January 24, 2007. The Committee on Natural Resources approved the bill on October 10, 2007, by unanimous consent.

H.R. 664 is expected to be considered on the House floor on February 12, 2008.

SUMMARY

Under this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to award competitive research grants subject to annual appropriations and to develop processes for converting saline water into water suitable for beneficial uses.

H.R. 664 authorizes \$2,500,000 to assist the Municipal Water District of Orange County, California in completing research and development, environmental and feasibility studies, and preliminary engineering for the District's proposed seawater desalination project at Dana Point, California. The total federal funding is not to exceed 25 percent of the projects total cost. The Secretary's authority to carry out the provisions contained in this bill will expire ten years after the bills enactment.

BACKGROUND

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (the District) relies heavily on imported water from the Colorado River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta, and imports nearly 90 percent of that sources current water supply for the District's service area.

The District provides wholesale water to 30 cities and retail water agencies in Southern California.

The proposed project is estimated to deliver approximately 15,000 to 20,000 acre-feet of water per year to water consumers in Orange County.

Orange County's population growth has greatly increased the burden placed on the District's scarce water supplies.

COST

The CBO estimates that the implementation of this bill would cost \$2.5 million over the 2008-2012 period.

STAFF CONTACT

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